Child Labour

982. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has been witnessing growth in terms of engagement of children before the age of working in various sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have asked the Registrar-General of Census to furnish figures for child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5—14 years in the country has registered slight increase over that of 1991 in absolute terms. The total number of working children in the country as per the 1991 census was 1.12 crore and it was 1.26 crore according to the 2001 census. However, the percentage of working children to that of child population in the corresponding age group has come down.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Registrar-General and Census Commissioner is providing the figures of working children in the country.

Mandays lost due to strike

983. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the mandays lost due to strike during 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05;

(b) the mandays lost due to lock-out during the above period; and

(c) the mandays lost due to lay-off during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) A statement showing the number of mandays lost due to strikes, lock-outs and lay-offs during 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 is at enclosed statement.